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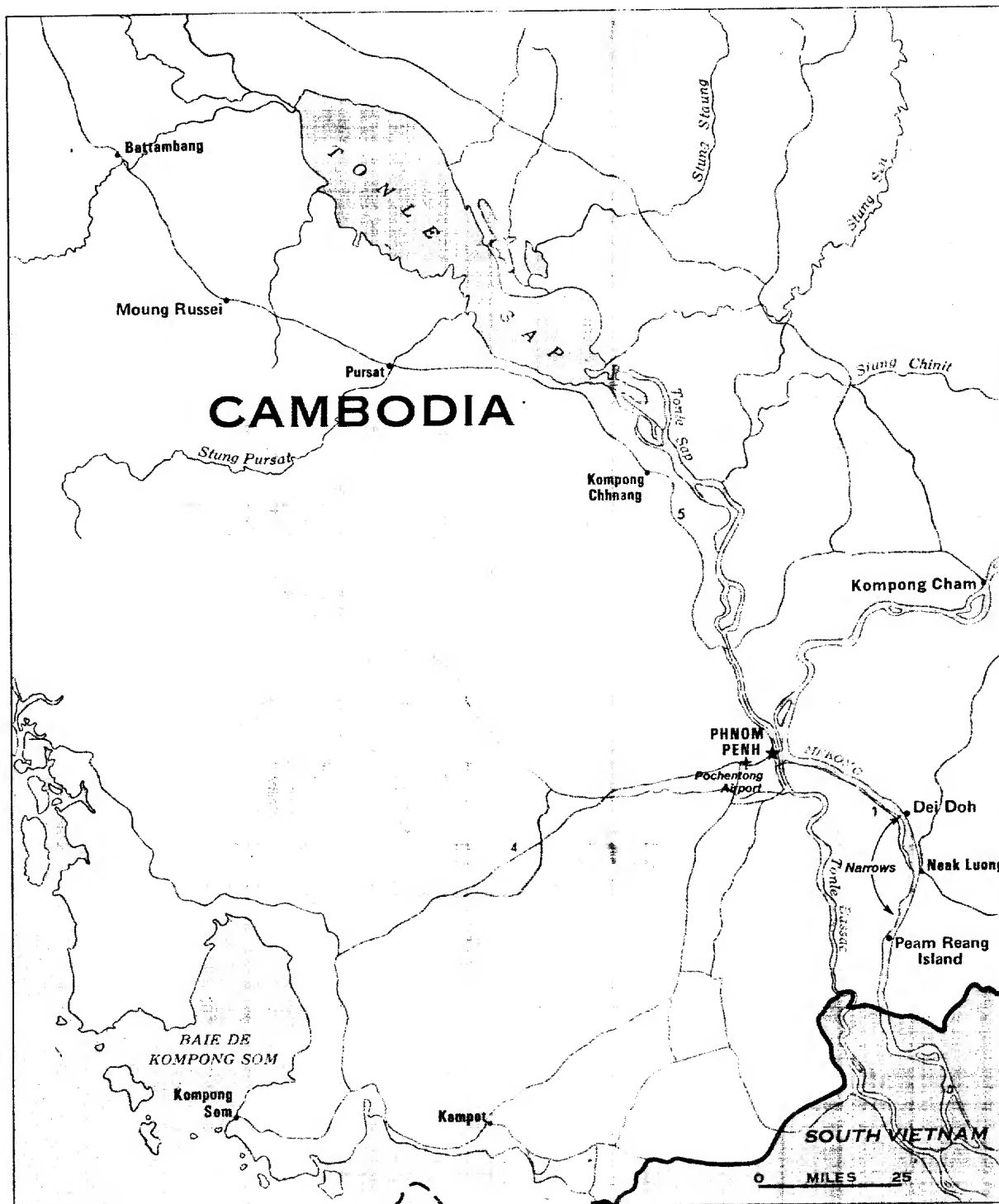
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CAMBODIA

The military situation in Cambodia deteriorated further over the weekend. Heavy Communist attacks against government positions on the Mekong River island of Peam Reang continued and it has reportedly fallen to the Communists. Radio contact was lost yesterday. The fate of two government battalions on the island is not yet known, but casualties are expected to be heavy.

Loss of the government beachhead on the island will threaten remaining government positions south of Neak Luong and delay security operations planned for the area of the southern narrows. Without the foothold overlooking this key choke point, it is doubtful that the government will be able to secure the riverbanks without a massive commitment of troops.

The government battalion attempting to retake Dei Doh north of Neak Luong was withdrawn yesterday. It is not yet known if the government plans permanently to abandon the effort to retake the position or to make another effort, possibly with a larger force.

The badly mauled 7th Division remains under almost constant attack northwest of Phnom Penh and the remnants of one of its brigades were forced to pull back Sunday. No significant penetration of the capital's northwestern defenses resulted; [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] In the far northwest, the insurgents have occupied most of MOUNG RUSSEI, a town astride Route 5 southeast of Battambang. Several buildings were set afire, including a large rice warehouse. Reinforcements have been dispatched from Battambang and Pursat to assist remaining government defenders.

Meanwhile communist rockets continue to fall on Pochentong airport and the capital. Twenty-one persons

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were wounded in attacks against the airport on February 16 and 17, and an enemy rocket hit a warehouse in northern Phnom Penh on the 16th destroying a quantity of lubricants.

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USSR-UK

British Prime Minister Wilson concluded his five-day, official visit to the USSR yesterday by signing a series of agreements with the Soviets that should result in improved bilateral relations.

The two sides signed:

--A joint statement "marking the beginning of a new stage in Soviet-British relations." It includes declarations on various international issues such as Cyprus, the Middle East, and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

--A protocol on consultations.

--A declaration on nuclear nonproliferation.

--Statements to implement a long-term program for the development of trade and economic and industrial cooperation and greater cooperation in science, technology, and medicine.

The Soviets have given the visit extensive and warm treatment in the press and have hinted that the UK now may figure more importantly in Soviet relations with Western Europe. By highlighting the visit, Moscow may also have been trying to allay rumors of General Secretary Brezhnev's declining health and vigor. Brezhnev met with Wilson on three occasions during the visit and accepted an invitation to visit the UK. No date was announced.

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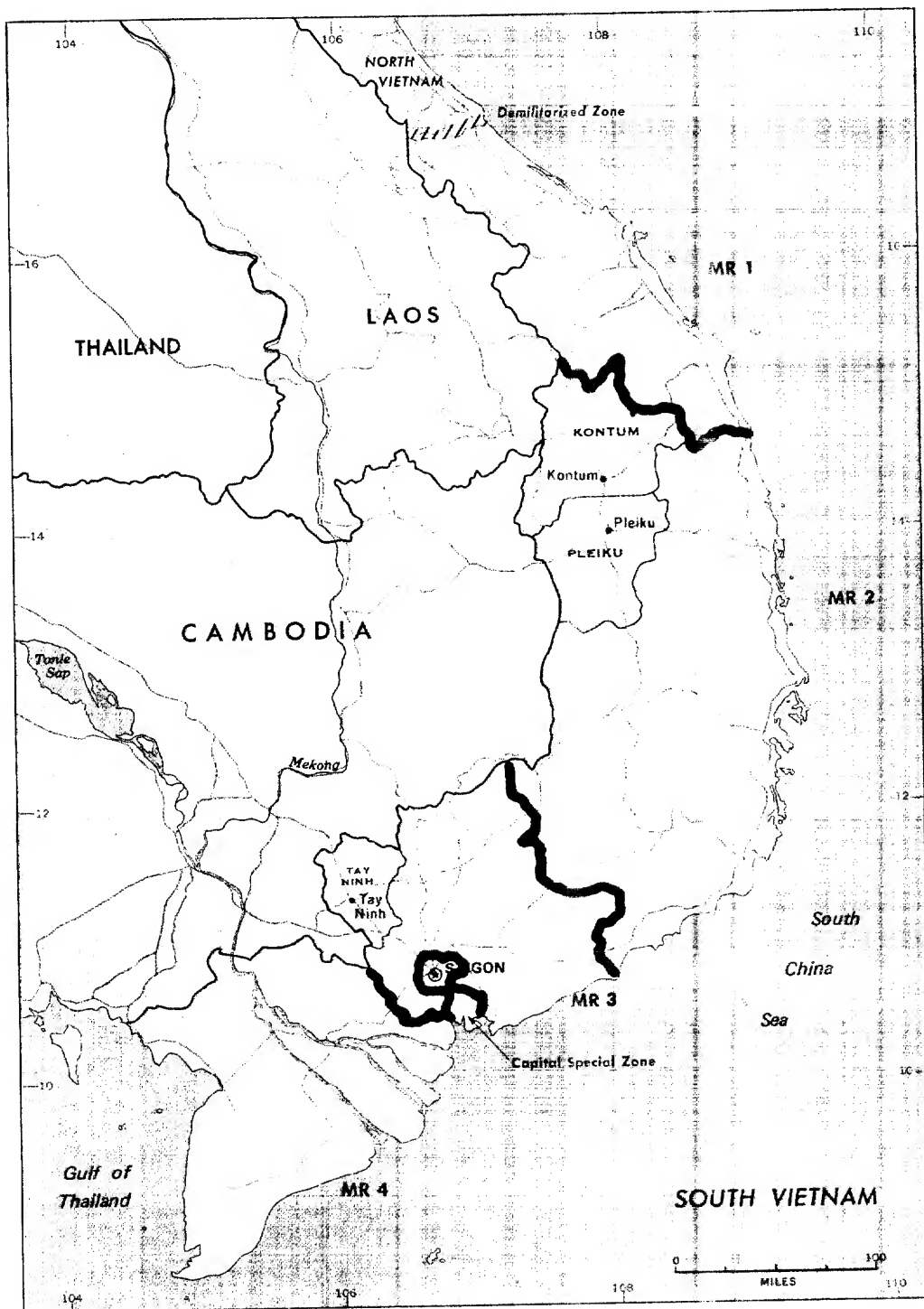
USSR-CHINA

A new round of the Sino-Soviet border talks began in Peking on February 15, but neither side is showing any optimism.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ilichev, Moscow's chief negotiator in the border talks, returned to Peking last week. A high-ranking Soviet expert on Far Eastern affairs has denied that there is any special significance to Ilichev's return at this time and has quipped that Ilichev is a trouble-shooter who usually fails. In response to a question as to why chief Chinese negotiator Yu Chan has been replaced by Han Nien-lung, another of Peking's deputy foreign ministers, the Soviet official said that Moscow has been informed that Yu Chan is very ill.

Han's tenure as the chief negotiator for Peking does not signal a shift in the Chinese negotiating position. Each state, in fact, has recently stepped up its press criticism of the other. At the airport reception for Ilichev last week, both negotiators reportedly admitted that they are engaged in a "long chess game."

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SOUTH VIETNAM

The level of military action remained low throughout most of South Vietnam over the weekend, but government commanders are preparing for an anticipated new round of hostilities in some key areas. The Communists are relying on light shellings to sustain pressure on government targets, particularly in and around Tay Ninh City.

There have been numerous reports that new Communist attacks are scheduled for the second half of February in the provinces ringing Saigon as well as sapper attacks in the capital itself. The newly appointed commander in this region, General Nguyen Van Toan, has voiced confidence that he has sufficient forces to cope with any new large-scale Communist initiatives, including a possible two-division assault the Communists are reportedly planning against Tay Ninh Province. General Toan is not now conducting operations to recapture lost territory or to pre-empt the expected Communist attacks; instead, he is concentrating his efforts on locating the Communist main force formations in the region.

The flurry of shellings against government positions in the highland provinces of Pleiku and Kontum that erupted late last week prompted government forces to go on full alert in both province capitals. Although these bombardments apparently have subsided for the moment, the Communists may be nearly ready to open the highland battlefront.

In the northern provinces, where monsoon rains still are keeping both sides bogged down, senior officials expect the Communists to continue limited actions, especially against government probes. They believe, however, that heavier action will begin next month. Regional commander General Tuong has reduced his 100-percent alert of forces, but has authorized several extremely heavy combined air and artillery strikes against North Vietnamese troop concentrations.

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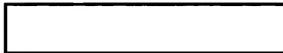
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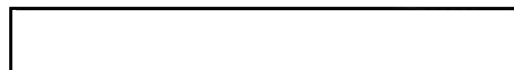
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